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The Highlander

Thursday **March 7 2024** | Issue 630

INSIDE: MINDEN SKATING CLUB SHOW PAGE 15

FREE



'Game-changer'

HHHS president and CEO Veronica Nelson, and HHHS Foundation executive director Melanie Klodt Wong said the addition of a CT scanner is game-changing for the Highlands community.

Photo by Mike Baker.

CT scanner construction begins in Haliburton

By Mike Baker

Construction to accommodate a new CT scanner and mammography unit at the Haliburton hospital got underway March 4, with health officials calling the addition "the most significant enhancement" in the facility's 23-year history.

Haliburton Highlands Health Services

(HHHS) president and CEO, Veronica Nelson, said Monday was an exciting day for all County residents.

"I've said it before, but this is a game-changer for our community. It's going to dramatically change how healthcare is delivered here... now people don't have to worry about being carted away, they will

have access to services they need much closer to home," Nelson said.

A CT scan combines a series of X-ray images taken from different angles around the body and uses computer processing to create cross-sectional images of the bones, blood vessels and soft tissue.

It has become the standard of care for

the diagnosis of many life-threatening conditions, such as stroke, internal trauma, and blood clots, said Jennifer Burns West, chief nursing executive at HHHS. The machine is used to visualize nearly all parts of the body and help doctors diagnose disease or injury, to develop a treatment plan.

Continued **'Units'** on page 2



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Contractors Fred Ribeiro and Justin Defend walk HHS CEO and president Veronica Nelson and HHS Foundation executive director Melanie Klodt Wong through blueprints for the new CT scanner space at the Haliburton hospital.
Photo by Mike Baker.

Units expected in summer

Continued from page 1

Most new physicians depend on CT units, with Burns West likening the device to a modern-day stethoscope.

“CT has quickly become the new standard of care – allowing physicians to leverage the full breadth of their toolkit,” she said.

The mammography unit will be used primarily for the early detection of cancer and other breast diseases.

Nelson said Orillia-based contractor Quinan Construction is running the build, which will take several months. An equipment contract for a Siemens Healthineers SOMATOM go.Top CT scanner has been submitted, with an application for the mammography unit being prepared for early spring.

She said things remain on track for a summer unveiling. HHS will be hiring between two and four X-ray technicians to operate the units, and an administrative support. Nelson said she had several leads and expected to have the new staff in place by opening.

Once operational, the units will be available for booked appointments during regular work hours Monday to Friday, and 24/7 for emergencies. Nelson did warn there may be times when patients have to be transferred to another facility

if they require diagnosis for severe, complicated illnesses and biopsies.

The project, which Nelson estimated last year would cost between \$3 million and \$3.5 million - and the hospital’s foundation has committed to fundraising up to \$4.3 million for - will “completely transform” the hospital footprint, the CEO says. The space is approximately 1,000 sq. ft. and will accommodate six to eight clients at a time.

There will be a waiting area, changeroom and two washrooms. The CT suite includes scan and control rooms, ultrasound room and storage area. The mammography space is around 160 sq. ft., including a changeroom and can accommodate one client.

Nelson said it was likely the biggest change the hospital has seen since its opening in 2001.

“This is going to change our history. It’s precedent setting... Haliburton County was the only county in Ontario without a CT scanner – no more,” Nelson said. “People will be able to access these services without having to drive an hour or two to another facility... this is delivering on our commitment to ensure people can access as many services as possible close to home.”

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Sir Sam's to become community ski hill

By Lisa Gervais

When Doug and Kim Wilkinson retired, their plan was to invest in a number of Haliburton County-based businesses that were “fun.”

But in 2021, when Sir Sam's Ski/Ride was put up for sale, Doug Wilkinson said the family could not pass up the opportunity to purchase it “and help ensure it would thrive in a post-COVID world.”

Now, he said he is looking for investors for the hill, that turns 60 in 2025. Wilkinson said they are opening up ownership to the local community – individuals and businesses – whilst still maintaining a 20 per cent share themselves. Wilkinson said he'll use capital raised to look for other investment opportunities in the Highlands.

“A community-based hill will ensure its ongoing existence in perpetuity,” Wilkinson said.

While being admittedly “coy” about sharing financials, Wilkinson said in his three years of ownership, the hill is in “great” financial shape and debt-free.

The Highlander asked about climate change and the impact on ski hills – referencing an article entitled *Climate change and the skiing industry in Ontario: exploring the importance of snowmaking as a technical adaptation*. The report found the average ski season was projected to reduce 0-16 per cent in the 2020s, seven to 32 per cent in the 2050s and 11-50 per cent in the 2080s. Wilkinson was asked why someone would want to invest in the industry.

He replied the hill had been around since 1965 and “is not going anywhere.”

Wilkinson said they have the added advantage of being further north than other southern Ontario ski hills. “Our weather is not as bad as some of the hills that are to the south, or closer to Georgian Bay, such as Collingwood.” He said they are traditionally one of the first hills in Ontario to open.

He added snowmaking equipment “has come a long way, where you can make more snow with less water more efficiently.” He said they have good snowmaking equipment, with more to come, as well as experienced snowmaking staff.

Wilkinson added it is no longer just a ski hill, but a three-season destination. In 2021, Sir Sam's introduced the Eagle View Wedding and Events Centre, and started planning to build the Eagle View observation



Doug, partner Kim, and children, Hunter and Brittney at the top of the ski hill. Submitted.

tower to add additional revenue streams and create a new colour venue in the County. He noted the Dorset tower gets 60,000 visitors every year, and Sir Sam's Ski/Ride would like a piece of that pie.

He estimated the hill gets 40,000 visitors a year now, creating local jobs and spin-off spending at Highlands accommodations, restaurants and stores.

“It's a hugely sentimental hill, it's been a destination beacon for Haliburton County for a long time. We want to turn this into a community hill. We're hoping this community will want to see that happen as opposed to selling to some big corporation.

“Obviously, we're doing this because we want to be transparent, especially with the community, around what we're trying to do. And, as a family, we're not going anywhere. We're still as keen to support the hill as we were the day we bought it. We're continuing to look to invest further into the community and this is just something that's going to enable us to get back on to our original track in terms of what our plans were.”

In outlining the business model, Wilkinson said the plan is to bring in a general manager for day-to-day operations and continue to market in Peterborough and the Kawarthas. He said a new governance structure would be

set up with the general manager reporting to the new ownership group, as determined by the executive committee, of four to five key owners.

The equity offering is being completed in five per cent blocks. Wilkinson said new owners will receive an annual dividend and payout of income based on their ownership and determined by the executive committee. Wilkinson also expects the group to set up an ongoing reserve fund to ensure there are sufficient funds for future capital projects at the hill.

Contact Doug at sirsams.com

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County crosses fingers for grants

By Lisa Gervais

If successful, provincial funding opportunities could see downtown Minden revitalization, signage to help people better find their way around the County, and a refurbished terminal building at Stanhope Airport.

County director of economic development, Scott Ovell, told a Feb. 28 County council meeting staff are applying under the Rural Economic Development (RED) fund. They are also supporting an application by Algonquin Highlands for an Ontario Trillium Foundation grant for an airport project.

Ovell said they sent their application to the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA), which oversees RED funding, on Feb. 21. He said staff opted to target the strategic infrastructure stream “with a focus on signage and downtown revitalization,” which are stated priorities within the program.

Staff have requested money for the installation of four community maps in each township. Each map would highlight points of interest, such as trails, parks, and museums. Ovell said they would be in high volume traffic areas, such as the Village Green in Minden and Head Lake Park in Haliburton. He said the maps can be repurposed once the County finishes its wayfinding signage work.

Ovell said in talking to the regional OMAFRA advisor, they were told they should apply with an existing community improvement plan, which Minden Hills implemented in 2019. It helps businesses improve facades, for example.

He said are also requesting funding for sign improvements and public art. Ovell said it would roll out in Minden Hills, if approved, but “this is being viewed as a pilot project, and if successful, could provide County staff with the evidence that would support the creation of CIPs within other urban settlement areas within the County.”

Warden Liz Danielsen did question why Minden and “not Haliburton, or why not downtown Wilberforce?” Ovell said, “It’s



The terminal building at Stanhope Airport. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

more of a requirement of the province than us trying to cherry pick one community over another.”

County staff have submitted an application to the province for \$19,450, with \$15,000 coming from the County and \$4,500 (30 per cent) from the province. The County’s contribution would be allocated from the economic development programming budget. Ovell said the line is currently budgeted at \$43,000 in the draft 2024 economic development and operating budget.

As for airport terminal renovations, Ovell said the County would be a co-applicant with no financial commitment. He said it could be to make the airport a community hub, or an economic development hub.

Danielsen said the application is primarily to improve the terminal building, to create a community hub, and make it accessible.

“Because at the present time, the washrooms are not accessible.” She expressed appreciation for the County’s support.

Ambulance response times

The Haliburton County paramedic service met, or exceeded, response time targets for 2023, chief Tim Waite told council.

Under provincial regulations, services have to set, adhere to, and publicly report, their response times every year.

They are under the Canadian Triage Acuity Scale (CTAS), for level one (resuscitation), level two (emergent), level three (urgent), level four (less urgent) and level five (non-urgent), as well as for sudden cardiac arrest.

Waite said for sudden cardiac arrest, the

goal was to arrive on scene within six minutes 20 per cent of the time, and they did it 32 per cent of the time.

Their CTAS 1 goal was to arrive on scene within eight minutes 30 per cent of the time, and they achieved 32 per cent of the time.

For CTAS 2, the goal was to arrive on scene within 15 minutes 65 per cent of the time and they met that goal.

The CTAS 3 goal was to arrive on scene within 20 minutes 65 per cent of the time. They did 79 per cent.

The CTAS 4 goal was to arrive on scene within 23 minutes 65 per cent of the time. HCPS achieved that, arriving on scene within 25 minutes 91 per cent of the time.

And, the CTAS 5 goal was to arrive on scene within 30 minutes 65 per cent of the time. HCPS achieved 96 per cent of the time.

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MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

- Archie Stouffer Elementary School presents their 1st annual student exhibit with the theme of what Minden means to the artist. Selections for our permanent collection and new acquisitions are also on display. The exhibits will be on display in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery until March 30. Gallery open Tuesday – Saturday from 10 am – 4 pm. Admission is by donation.
- The Knitting Village provides free knitting lessons for children ages 11-14. The first drop-in class is scheduled for Tuesday, March 5 from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre, 176 Bobcaygeon Road. All materials are supplied.
- Celebrate International Women's Day with the documentary *Under the Willow Tree* at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre on Thursday, March 7 at 5 pm
- Stop by Nature's Place for FREE drop-in activities during March Break. Visit www.mindenhills.ca/calendar for details on these programs / events.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

We are currently seeking energetic and highly motivated individuals for the following positions:

- Supervisor of Parks, Recreation and Cemeteries
- Community Services Casual Operator
- Parks Summer Students
- Cultural Centre Summer Students

Please visit our website at www.mindenhills.ca/careers/ for a complete list of available positions and how to apply.

SPRING LOAD RESTRICTIONS (HALF LOADS) IN EFFECT

Half Load weight restrictions are placed on roadways and posted each year in the spring for approximately 1-2 months. Persons contravening this regulation will be prosecuted under Section 122 of The Highway Traffic Act. Please watch for and obey posted signage. Visit www.mindenhills.ca for updates.

IMPORTANT TAX INFORMATION

The 2024 Interim tax bills were mailed on Friday, February 23, 2024. If you have not received your bill(s) prior to the March due date, please contact our office. The Interim tax bill will be payable in two installments: March 22 and May 24, 2024. This bill has been calculated using the 2023 annualized assessment multiplied by 50% of the 2023 applicable tax rate(s). Payments received after February 12 may not be reflected on your tax bill. Please note that any overdue amounts shown on your tax bill do not include penalty/interest for February and March. Please contact our office for a current balance at 705-286-1260 email: admin@mindenhills.ca.

Property owners are responsible to provide to the Municipal Office written notification of any address change. As per the Ontario Municipal Act, 2001, failure to receive your tax bill does not exempt penalty charges from being applied to a tax account.

A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Clocks will spring forward one hour at 2 am on Sunday, March 10th and the Minden Hills Fire Department is recommending residents install new batteries in their smoke and carbon monoxide alarms when they change their clocks. Don't forget to check the date on your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms they need to be replaced every 10 years.

COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted with a hybrid model of in-person (Council Chambers) and electronic participation in accordance with the Municipal Act. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

- March 14 – Regular Council Meeting
- March 28 – Regular Council Meeting
- April 11 – Regular Council Meeting
- April 25 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link on the Township CivicWeb Portal at <https://mindenhills.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingTypeList.aspx>. Visit our website for more information.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE (HHW) EVENT DATES

Mark your calendars for our 2024 HHW events:

- May 18 • July 6 • August 24

Events will run from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena (55 Parkside Street). Visit www.mindenhills.ca/hazardouswaste for full details.



Vendors speak out on market situation

By Mike Baker

Two key agricultural vendors from the Haliburton farmers market say they'll be "crushed" if the popular weekly event doesn't return to Head Lake Park this season.

Marchand Lamarre has had his Garliccloves stall since 2020, while Heather Bramham's Esson Creek Maple has been a staple since 2018. The pair spoke to *The Highlander* this week about concerns over the way the market situation has unfolded in recent months.

The event ran for 11 years at Head Lake Park before being relocated to nearby Rotary Beach Park ahead of the 2023 season. Officials from the Haliburton County Farmers Market Association (HCFMA) have spent months advocating for the markets' return to the downtown park – something Lamarre and Bramham "wholeheartedly" support.

"The big reason we want to go back to Head Lake Park is for increased accessibility," said Bramham, who has mobility issues. "People can walk around on the footpath, it would be closer to the downtown, it provides increased visibility for vendors, and brings people into town. It just makes the most sense for the entire community to have it there."

"There were lots of problems at Rotary Beach," Bramham said, noting seniors and parents with strollers stopped attending due to a problematic layout, while there were numerous issues with people using the nearby basketball courts. "I lost count of the number of times I saw a ball fly into a stall or hit someone standing in line. It's not the safest thing."

Dysart council has given the green light for the market to return to Head Lake Park, providing HCFMA pays an additional \$5 per vendor, per market day to the township. Based on the market having 40 vendors over a 21-week season, this amounts to approximately \$4,200.

Bramham said while some members of council have described the fee as "not a big deal", she says it is for smaller agricultural vendors struggling to turn a profit.

She said Esson Creek Maple is a part-time endeavour for her and her husband, who both have full-time jobs. It supplements their income and is a hobby they're both passionate about. She indicated they would

return at the increased rate but know others won't. "That's tough, because to be designated as a farmers market you

need a certain number of local agricultural vendors... the Haliburton market is right on the line," Bramham said.

Market officials previously told *The Highlander* if the Haliburton market lost two of those vendors it would lose its farmers market designation.

At a Feb. 27 meeting, Dysart council reaffirmed its decision to implement a fee with no conditions attached. This came after HCFMA submitted a letter suggesting three alternate resolutions ranging from the market going ahead with no increased cost and HCFMA agreeing to a \$5 per vendor, per market day hike providing the township records all rehabilitative work at the park this summer.

HCFMA officials gathered for a board meeting March 4, which ended without consensus, according to Angel Taylor.

"The proposed \$5 per vendor, per market day has not undergone the requisite public consultation process, is

not published in Dysart's fee schedule and we don't know what the exact wording will be... it is not subject to the conditions surrounding the fee schedule, it is a loosely proposed fee with no contractual understanding regarding terms, limits, and rules. Until those matters are properly addressed, we cannot responsibly consent to this arrangement," Taylor said in an emailed statement on behalf of the board.

Asked whether the board has committed to having a market in Haliburton this year, whether at Head Lake Park or at Rotary Beach, Taylor said, "if the information and evidence we acquire provide support that it is a prudent and responsible decision to be in Head Lake Park, we will work hard to implement that."

She said there was no timeline for a decision.

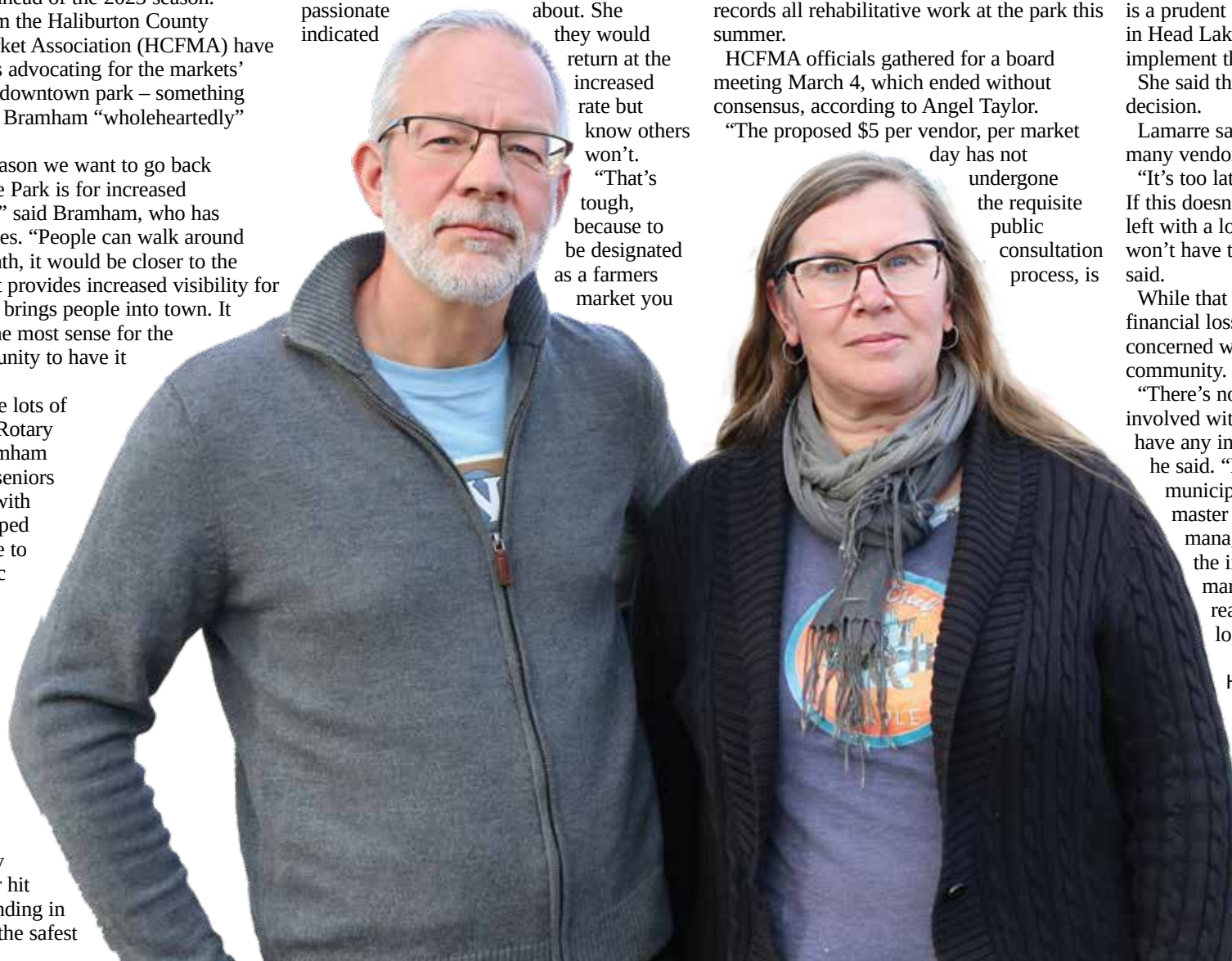
Lamarre said the ongoing dispute has left many vendors in limbo.

"It's too late now to apply to other markets. If this doesn't go forward, I'm going to be left with a lot of leftover products. I just won't have the opportunity to sell it," he said.

While that would represent a significant financial loss, Lamarre said he's more concerned with losing his connection to the community.

"There's no other community group I'm involved with outside the market. I wouldn't have any interaction with local residents," he said. "I've gone through Dysart's municipal plan, the Head Lake Park master plan, the five-year destination management plan – they all speak of the importance of a thriving farmers market... if an agreement isn't reached, it would be a monumental loss to this community."

Haliburton farmers market vendors Marchand Lamarre and Heather Bramham want to see the weekly event return to Head Lake Park. Photo by Mike Baker.



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MINDEN HILLS NEWS

Looking to pass STR bylaw

Building and bylaw's David Rogers, and the new head of the township's short-term rental program, Paula Ingram, appeared before council seeking endorsement of a short-term rental bylaw for Minden Hills Feb. 29.

Recently, council gave the green light to a third-party provider, Granicus, to do a lot of the background work, including licensing.

Rogers said they took a lot of the information from the County bylaw, but had made some changes to theirs.

CAO Cynthia Fletcher emphasized while they need to make the bylaw work for Minden Hills, they want to keep it as consistent as possible with the rest of the County. She added a working group of all five governments will be monitoring the program and providing regular updates.

Mayor, and County Coun., Bob Carter, said they'd been working on the file for seven years and "this is something that is long overdue. This is how the wheels of government sometimes turn. To get to this point is the fruits of a lot of labour."

He added, "I don't doubt that there's going to be still some things that are going to be coming up, but this is the starting point of trying to regulate this situation. This is a bylaw that can always be amended if we find out certain things aren't working or we need to have certain things work better. The one thing we hoped to be able to have is a bylaw as consistent as possible across the four municipalities of Haliburton County."

Minden Hills is looking to officially pass the bylaw on March 14. Dysart has already passed a bylaw.

They are looking at an Oct. 1 program start. Fletcher said she hopes the timeline can be accelerated.

Fire dispatch change

Minden Hills acting fire chief Robert Thibert told council it's time to move to a live dispatch – where fire crews have constant interaction with a dispatcher by radio – from the current system.

He said now, the service they are using can receive emergency calls and page them out, but there's then no dispatcher to monitor the incident and provide additional dispatch as needed.

"The lack of live monitoring puts the health and safety of firefighting crews, and by extension, the township and community, at risk in not having a dispatcher monitor the radio while fire crews are on scene mitigating sometimes chaotic situations," Thibert said.

"Moving to a live dispatching service will also ensure communications are recorded and documented properly. By having call recordings, it allows the department to have the necessary records for continuity purposes and accurate time stamps for achieving our incident benchmarks and regulatory reporting requirements," he added.

Thibert asked council to consider waiving its procurement policy and allow the department to single source the contract to Smiths Falls fire dispatch centre. He estimated the cost at \$38,141.25 plus HST in year one. He noted Algonquin Highlands and Highlands East are using Smith Falls. *(Minden Hills news compiled by Lisa Gervais).*

Minden Hills' fire department is getting a new dispatch. *File.*






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Central Food Network: Hydro help doesn't go far enough

By Mike Baker

Recently announced enhancements to the Ontario Electricity Support Program (OESP) is welcome news to Tina Jackson, executive director of Highlands East's Central Food Network (CFN), though she believes the County's lowest income residents require further support.

The Ontario Energy Board announced effective March 1 income eligibility thresholds will increase by up to 35 per cent, making the program accessible to thousands more households.

The OESP provides a monthly hydro credit for eligible customers based on household income and size. Credits are applied directly to customers' monthly bills once an application is approved, Jackson said.

"I don't want in any way to not celebrate this, because it is an enhancement, but I think more help is needed," she told *The Highlander*. "People are being hit on all sides in terms of increased cost of living, not simply just increases in their hydro bill."

Under the new criteria, single people with an after-tax income of up to \$38,000, and couples with an after-tax income of up to \$54,000, will qualify. Credits range from \$35 to \$75 per month. Higher credits are provided to customers who use certain medical devices, those who heat their home with electricity, or are Indigenous or living with Indigenous family members.

Jackson said CFN has processed 540 applications, unlocking close to \$350,000 in hydro credits for local households since OESP launched in 2016.

"It is application-based, so people have to know about it, they have to apply for the money to get it. The same is true for the increase," Jackson said, saying those already enrolled will need to reapply. Local staff can assist with any application, she said, noting Heat Bank Haliburton – a CFN program – is an OEB-authorized intake agency.

Thresholds for the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) will match

the new OESP levels. Jackson said LEAP provides emergency financial help to households in hydro-related arrears. Effective March 1, LEAP grants for households who heat their home using electricity will increase to \$780, from \$600, with those who use other methods jumping to \$650, from \$500.

Bigger picture 'bleak'

Jackson said CFN has seen increased demand across all programs over the past year. In 2023, food banks the organization has in Cardiff and Wilberforce saw a monthly average of 217 unique visitors – a 37 per cent increase from 2021.

"I feel like I say this every year, but we are now serving the greatest number of people we have ever served. I don't see that changing any time soon," Jackson said.

CFN has been able to meet this increased demand by developing connections with other food banks across the province. Whenever some of these other facilities, often located in larger urban areas, has too much, they connect with CFN who then arranges to pick up and transport the food to the Highlands.

It's a similar story for the heat bank. Typically, CFN serves around 120 households each year, but from April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023 they served 156 households – a 27 per cent increase. Jackson said that number would likely have been up again if not for this winter's mild weather.

Jackson said the situation isn't likely to change until Ontario beefs up other social assistance programs such as Ontario Works (OW) and the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP). The base monthly rate for those on OW is \$733 a month, with ODSP paying \$1,308 – only \$556 of which can be applied to shelter/accommodation costs.

"It would be next to impossible to find an apartment in Haliburton while also putting food on the table, paying for transportation and utilities – it just doesn't add up, which is why so many are struggling," Jackson said.



Central Food Network's Rachel Gillooly has been assisting people with their taxes at free clinics in recent weeks. *Submitted.*

Those on ODSP are further restricted by what Jackson called outdated rules preventing them, or anyone else, living in their household, from topping up a collective income with other revenue streams.

"It's all income tested, so if you or anyone else you live with is in receipt of other income, your benefits are reduced. Even if somebody was getting money from the Canada Pension Plan, that is deducted dollar for dollar off their ODSP cheque," Jackson said. "So, really, if you rely on ODSP you are basically forced to live in poverty."

For more information, visit centralfoodnetwork.org or call 705-306-0565.

DYSART ET AL NEWS

Land purchase refinance

Dysart et al has secured a new \$1.45 million loan to spread out the cost of acquiring 91.5 acres of land along County Road 21 over the next 10 years.

The township paid \$1.725 million for the property, located across from the Haliburton Vet Clinic, in July 2023. As part of the deal, it assumed an existing \$1.45 million mortgage, at five per cent interest, held by local developer Paul Wilson through his company Harburn Holdings. It was to run through to 2028.

In January, mayor Murray Fearrey said the township would need to clear that mortgage to ensure it wasn't in breach of

the Ontario Municipal Act, which stipulates municipalities can only borrow from a recognized financial institution. That mortgage was paid off March 1.

Treasurer Barb Swannell told council Feb. 27 that the township had secured another mortgage through the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. It carries a 5.787 per cent interest rate over a three-year term. The township has committed to paying the mortgage off by 2034.

Because the new mortgage carries a higher interest rate, Swannell said there will be additional expenses of \$5,093 on the debt repayment this year.

Fearrey said the land was purchased to facilitate new residential development. There has also been talk of new recreation facilities, such as an arena, curling club and

swimming pool, being housed on the site.

The mayor made a formal request last week for staff to develop an RFP to hire a consultant to advise council on how to best develop that property. CAO Tamara Wilbee said she would bring information back at Dysart's March 26 meeting.

Council also formally turned down an offer from Marnie Blair to donate a 15.75-acre parcel of land across from the Pinestone Resort on County Road 21 to Dysart. The gift was made public at a council meeting in November 2019, on condition the land be used for recreational purposes. *The Highlander* reported in January the deal would not be proceeding. (*Dysart et al* briefs compiled by Mike Baker).

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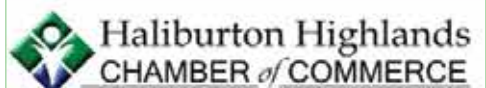


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LETTERS

No climate change co-ordinator

Dear editor,

Climate scientists continue to highlight the mountains of evidence of the growing impact of a warming climate on people, other species and the ecosystems supporting all life on the planet.

It is essential we not only stop making the problem worse – by transitioning off fossil fuels as fast as we can - but also put systems and programs in place to have each others’ backs as the consequences of past emissions put our health and safety at increasing risk.

Haliburton County has adopted climate change mitigation and adaptation plans focused on internal municipal operations as well as the larger community. We thank the County for undertaking that essential work.

Korey McKay, the County’s first (but hopefully not last) climate change coordinator, played a key leadership role over the past four-plus years in developing those plans but has recently moved on to another community.

It now appears the County is not planning to replace Korey but rather transfer her responsibilities to other planning staff.

Environment Haliburton (EH!) wants to express our appreciation for Korey’s deep understanding of climate science as well as her championing of robust climate action. At the same time, we want to emphasize what Korey initiated needs to not just continue but expand – dramatically.

There is an urgent need to focus increased time and energy on implementing the County’s plans and raising the level of climate literacy essential to building community-wide support for strong climate action.

Climate plans are words on paper unless backed by serious efforts to put them into action. In our experience, community support for the action required to meet the growing challenges we face, cannot be assumed - it needs to be actively built.

There are a number of community organizations in Haliburton County – EH! included - doing what they can. But so much more needs to be done to generate the level of community buy-in required to meet the massive and growing threat that climate disruption poses for everyone and everything we love.

We urge council to not just take steps to immediately replace Korey but broaden the scope of her former position to include an expanded public climate change education and community outreach mandate. There is not a moment to waste.

Terry Moore
VP EH!

Are STRs operating illegally?

Dear editor,

I support Lisa Gervais’ Feb. 15 column ‘STR sky will not fall’ and disagree with last week’s letter to the editor ‘Stop polarizing over STRs,’ which refers to Lisa’s write-up as lopsided journalism and factually incorrect and biased.

This STR operator, and many others, should ask their directors of planning if the current use of their property as a STR business is a legally permitted use that conforms to the zoning bylaw (ZBL), or could I be operating illegally?

STRs are not listed as a permitted use in the Dysart ZBL and I don’t believe operating a STR in a residential zone conforms with the current ZBL. Bed & breakfast, accommodation services, which provide temporary accommodation for the travelling and vacationing public, and home businesses are all listed as non-residential uses in the Dysart OP and ZBL.

So why do the owners of STR businesses, operating in residential zones, feel they have the right to complain? The owners of the residential properties, using their properties legally, located near a STR business, are the ones that should have the right to complain and be listened to and responded to.

Dysart passed the STR licensing bylaw Feb. 27. This is a business licensing bylaw but it does not stipulate in what zones these STR businesses will be allowed to operate. There has been no public consultation about zoning.

Lisa is correct in stating that STR bylaws exist in numerous Ontario and Canadian townships. Most of these have required ZBL and OP amendments to confirm zones where STRs can operate. Court cases have determined that STRs are a commercial use.

Christine & Jim Legge
Dysart

PHOTOS OF THE WEEK



Top: Fred Pyziak sent this photo of “two of a family of four that come by early evening most days.” Above: Clarke Thompson took this photo recently of a winter sunset on Soyers Lake.

The Highlander welcomes all contributions, however we wish to remind readers of the following:

Letters to the editor policy

- Letters should be exclusive to *The Highlander*. We do not publish letters also addressed to other media outlets, open letters, letters to third parties, or cc’d letters.
- Letters must be signed with first and last name and home town. We also need an address and phone number for verification. The address and phone number won’t be published. We do not run anonymous letters.
- Letters must be a maximum of 300 words. If submitted at greater length, they will be returned for editing.
- *The Highlander* may still edit for length and clarity.
- *The Highlander* has the right not to publish letters.

SCHOOL BOARD NEWS

Kindergarten registration open

Trillium Lakelands District School Board has opened registration for young learners who will be starting Kindergarten this September.

A media release issued Feb. 21 states the school board, which offers Kindergarten programs at Archie Stouffer Elementary School in Minden, Stuart Baker Elementary School in Haliburton, and both Cardiff and Wilberforce elementary schools, fosters an environment that allows its youngest students to develop across all key learning fundamentals.

“At this stage, students grow through play-based learning and small group instruction with caring educators. Students will learn about language and math, engage in healthy physical activities and the arts, and develop socially and emotionally through interaction with their peers,” the release states.

Parents and guardians can register children turning four this year online at tldsb.ca.

There is information online about the programs they will be exposed to, while a digital locator will use the provided home address to identify which school a child is likely to be placed in.

TLDSB is asking parents to register their children by March 31.

“September may seem like a far way away, but it’s important for TLDSB to know how many students are enrolled so that staffing and spaces for the upcoming school year can be made.”

Student census

TLDSB director of education, Wes Hahn, said a new census launching next month will help the local board better understand student and parent priorities, both short and long term.

“As part of our commitment to continued progress towards equity and inclusion for all, the board is conducting a census that will collect identity-based demographic information,” Hahn said. “The data collected... will provide the school system with valuable information that will help to improve strategic planning, programming, and services with a focus on student achievement and engagement.”

For students in Kindergarten to Grade 6, one census per student is to be completed by a parent or guardian with input from their child. Responses can be delivered virtually or by paper. Students from Grades 7 to 12 will have the opportunity to complete the census in class by March 8.

Hahn noted responses, as well as student and family information, will remain confidential under the board’s freedom of information and protection of privacy legislation.

To learn more, visit tldsb.ca.

Evacuation at Archie Stouffer

There was an emergency evacuation at Archie Stouffer Elementary School following reports of a “suspected gas smell” at the



TLDSB is asking parents to register their children for Kindergarten by March 31. *File.*

Minden school March 1.

At 2:26 p.m. on Friday, Carolynne Bull, communications lead for Trillium Lakelands District School Board, issued a media release stating all staff and students were safe and had been evacuated to the nearby Minden arena.

Bull told *The Highlander* students remained at the arena for the rest of the school day.

School buses ran their usual routes, picking up students from the arena.

The Minden Hills Fire Department was on-site at the school for much of the afternoon investigating. They determined the smell was caused by an overheating bluetooth speaker battery. Students were back in classes March 4. *(School board news compiled by Mike Baker).*

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New gym ‘extension of couple’s family’

By Mike Baker

Kevin Etmanski and Kailey Bateman are changing the face of fitness in Haliburton. The local couple are taking the leap in pursuing their joint dream of opening a gym, taking over space downstairs at Stedmans Mall. While the gym will be small, at just over 1,500 sq. ft., the pair say it will serve as a gateway for people looking to make connections in the community and improve their physical and mental health.

“We’ve been looking to do something like this for a long time – I’ve been hooked on weight training for 30 years, Kailey has been a personal trainer for the past four years, this just feels like something we’re meant to do,” Etmanski said. “This is all about helping people to reach their potential.”

The space will open April 1. It will boast a treadmill, recumbent bike, two stationary bikes, a quadricep extension machine, hamstring curl machine, free weights and dumbbells, a squat rack, cable crossover machine, and a leg press.

Bateman said she also plans to introduce some group classes, while the pair will offer personal training tips and packages.

“A lot of people can get discouraged in a gym setting because they don’t really know what they’re doing, they can get intimidated by the atmosphere. We’re trying to curb that by making ourselves available to assist anyone with anything – we want to make this gym almost an extension of our family,” Etmanski said.

“We will meet everyone individually. We’ll get to know our people. If you need someone to walk you through all the equipment and how it works to get started, we’ll be here. We’re in this for the long haul. We want to build an entirely new community in Haliburton,” he added.

Monthly membership is \$60, Etmanski said, noting the gym will be accessible 24/7. Members will be provided with their own card to enter the building after hours.

Etmanski said he’ll split his time between the gym and his arborist company, Etmanski



Kevin Etmanski and Kailey Bateman are opening a gym, Haliburton Fitness, at Stedmans Mall. Photo by Mike Baker.

Tree Experts. Bateman will also have a regular presence at the gym. They say it will be staffed from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The goal is to reach 100 members within the first year. Looking long-term, Etmanski said he wants to create a space of his own in Haliburton.

“I have a vision for what this place can become. I can absolutely picture us having our own building, a bigger space that can accommodate our growth, but also offer space to work with other like-minded

business owners who have a passion for fitness,” Etmanski said.

He sees this new venture working hand-in-hand with existing fitness operations, such as Sweat Social Health and Fitness.

A recovering alcoholic with 12 years of sobriety, Etmanski said he uses the gym to channel his addictive personality. He said working out is a great way to maintain a routine. He said the gym will also be a constant reminder of his dad, Gary, who passed away in 2022.

“We’re able to do this because of him – we want to make sure the money he left doesn’t go to waste. My dad was always in shape and pretty passionate about fitness, so I think this is a great way to honour him,” Etmanski said.

There will be a community open house in the space April 5, with Etmanski and Bateman on hand to answer any questions. For more information, email haliburtonfitness@gmail.com.



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Top: Eve Goldberg leads a workshop March 2. Middle: This musician joins in the fun at Camp Wanakita. Above: These guitar players showed enthusiasm for Eve Goldberg's workshop. *Photos by Lisa Gervais.*

Music magic at Wanakita

It was a sold-out Winter Folk Camp at Wanakita March 1-3. This year's offering included six instructors, three days of music workshops, three nights of song circles and jam sessions, and two concerts. This year's instructors were Katherine Wheatley, Suzie Vinnick, Jane Lewis, Eve Goldberg, Nick Russell and Rob Lutes. *(Lisa Gervais).*

Corridor 'necessary' for climate change

By Mike Baker

Paul Heaven said efforts to protect a 100,000-hectare parcel of land connecting the Haliburton Highlands to three provincial parks progressed well in 2023.

The Highlands Corridor initiative was introduced by the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust (HHLT) in 2020, seeking to protect an important wildlife corridor that would bridge the gap between the Queen Elizabeth II Wildlands Provincial Park, Kawartha Highlands Provincial Park, and Silent Lake Provincial Park.

Speaking at a recent HHLT event, Heaven said the team working on the project has defined 4,800 hectares of provincially significant wetlands in the area and is completing mapping all wetlands in the townships of Snowden, Lutterworth, and Glamorgan.

"We've made tremendous headway... the work has provided us with the science to understand why we're trying to protect the corridor, especially when it comes to the value of wetlands for flood attenuation and carbon storage," Heaven said.

Referencing the significant flooding seen across the County in 2013, 2016, 2017, and 2019, Heaven said it's important these wetlands be protected and maintained as they serve as natural sponges that trap and slowly release water. Without them, local flooding events could be catastrophic.

There are implications for wildlife too,

Heaven noted. By connecting the three provincial parks, it will give animals the chance to escape areas where there's disease, drought, fire, or lack of a sustainable food source and relocate elsewhere.

"Climate change and other threats pose big problems for our wildlife communities. If wildlife can't move from an area experiencing issues, they die out. The way to mitigate that is to maintain, and improve, connectivity," Heaven said. "That's one of the biggest drivers of this whole project – to bring these core areas together and give wildlife the opportunity to move around."

The corridor is home to 39 federal and provincial species at risk, 25 provincially significant species, and 42 regionally or locally significant species.

Approximately 60,000 hectares of the corridor is made up of Crown land, Heaven said. Haliburton County council passed a resolution of support for the corridor in February 2023, standing with HHLT in trying to establish the bulk of that land as a conservation reserve.

The remaining 40,000 ha is mostly private land, Heaven said. HHLT has established a new 'building partners in conservation' program, aiming to bring private landowners on board to help protect the corridor. Through that, the land trust has preserved around 1,800 hectares.

"We provide management plans, we get people enrolled in tax incentive programs, and generally speak of the importance of



Wildlife biologist Paul Heaven spoke at a recent Haliburton Highlands Land Trust event, pictured with HHLT chair Shelley Hunt. Photo by Mike Baker.

good stewardship," Heaven said. "Private landowners have a tremendous role to play."

While there has been some talk by some members of County council, notably Cec Ryall – deputy mayor in Highlands East – of using some of the land included in the corridor to explore housing opportunities, Heaven said there's been no movement on that front.

"We're a long way from nailing down boundaries. We're willing and fully understanding that there's going to be pieces [of land] where we'll work with municipalities and community partners [to explore] other interests, so there will be lots of massaging," Heaven said. "The focus now is on establishing the concept and

highlighting the importance.

"We need climate change resiliency here in central and southern Ontario. As a country, we're trying to have 30 per cent of our landscape protected by 2030. We're only a third of the way there... we've got another [20 million hectares] we need to protect – we can't have that all up north," Heaven added.

"Our wildlife populations are at risk here, our towns are at risk of flooding, we need solutions here."

HHLT has secured funding to map wetlands in Monmouth and has submitted a proposal to the province to do Cardiff, potentially in 2025. Heaven noted the land trust shares its mapping data with the County, which is used for planning purposes.



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Mark Bramham of Esson Creek Maple shows off the many sweet treats he brought to the workshop. *Submitted.*

Fur fun in Wilberforce

The Minden District Fur Harvesters (MDFH) held a trappers workshop in Wilberforce Jan. 14, with more than a dozen vendors on hand with displays, demonstrations, competitions and door prizes, including the Ministry of Natural Resources, Milcun Firearms Training Specialists, Esson Creek Maple products, Anne Kulmala Furs and more. Admission was by donation, with all proceeds – including food donations – sent to the Central Food Network. Linda Nottage, an MDFH member, said there were more than 100 attendees. *(Mike Baker).*



Slip, slide, score

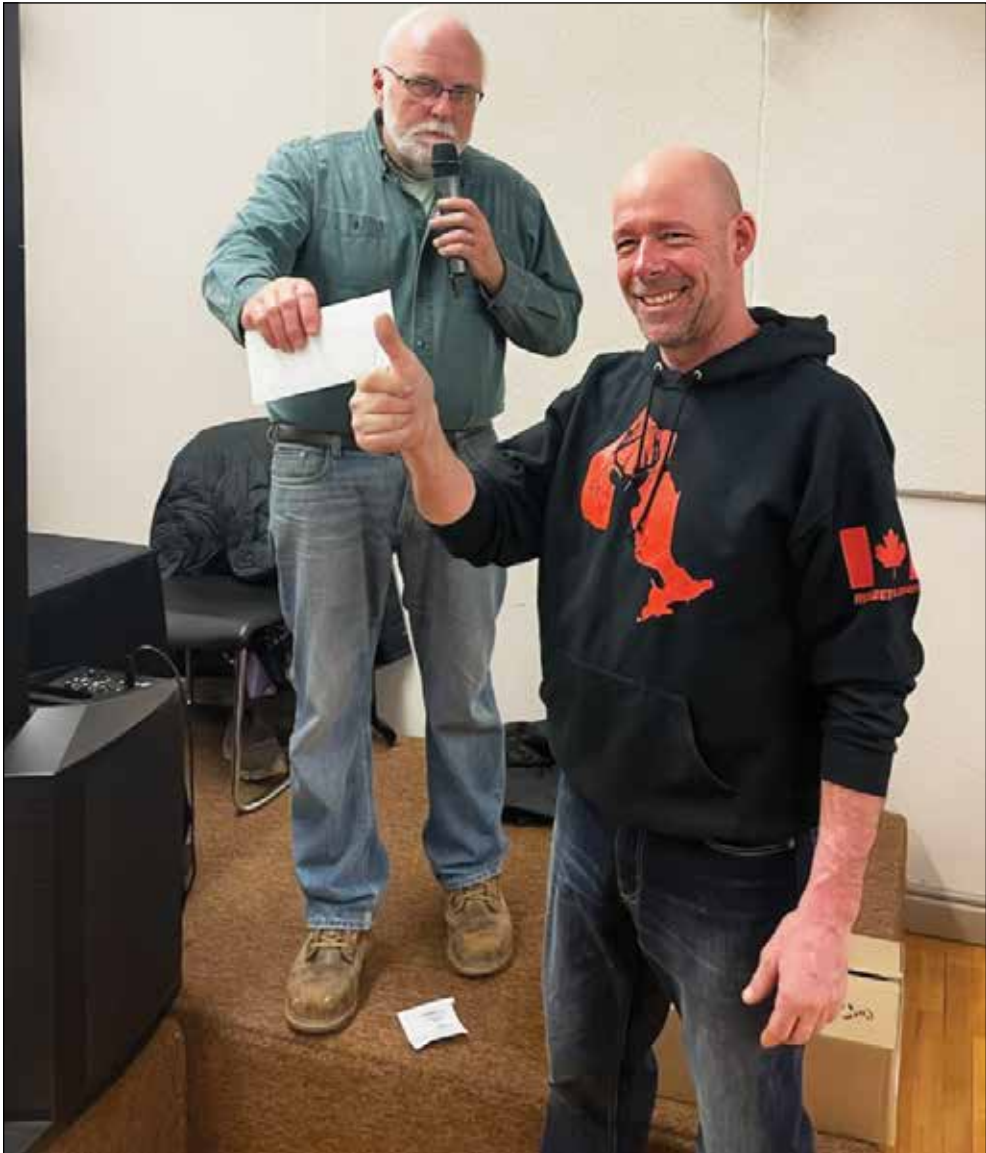
The third annual broomball tournament held by Els and Matt Brown at their home on Pringle Road was a “huge” success Brown said. The event was just off of Gelert Road on a marsh connecting between Minden and Haliburton. More than 44 people were in attendance. Six teams faced off in the double elimination bracket. “Matches were close, competition was fierce and it was all left out on the broomball court,” Brown said. The Rockies took home the coveted broomball trophy. Captain Blayne Saunders led Glenn Rammsdale, Gavin Hull, Gen Simone, the Gibbons brothers, Nathan and Aaron, to victory against the Nordiques. “Thank you to all who came out to play, cheer and support an amazing event. See you next year,” Brown said. *(Lisa Gervais).*



Jump, spring and glide into the season

The Minden Skating Club presented its annual gala March 3 with a theme of ‘jump, spring and glide into spring.’ This year, there was a series of performances showcasing achievements for the 2023-24 season. “Instead of our traditional carnival, we’re proud to honour our skaters’ achievements and highlight their progress throughout the season,” the club said. There were CanSkate numbers, Star Skate group routines, senior skate group showcases, duets and solos.

Top left: Jayde Rowden, Kamryn Holden, Evelyn Vanderstarre, Sarah Teljeur, Olivia Fitzell, Cheyenne Lagace, Alexis Feero, Nicole Lee, Ali Mantle and Emily Fitzell kicked it off with some *Old Time Rock and Roll*. Top right: As usual, the CanSkate kids were the stars of the show with *Me and You and a Dog Named Boo*. Middle left: Lagace, Fitzell and Rowden with *Express*. Middle right: Shelby Lagace skated to *Chattahoochee* and *Fast Car*. Above left: Grace Thomas and Ellie Nimigon skated to *For the First Time in Forever*. Inset: Freyja Neimann-Rowe ice danced as Cinderella. Right: A troupe of skaters did Lionel Ritchie’s *Dancing on the Ceiling*. Photos by Lisa Gervais.



Phil Brown flashes a thumbs up after being revealed as the winner of the 2024 West Guilford Snow Shuffle. *Submitted.*

Making the most of snow

Despite the recent mild weather running roughshod over the County’s snowmobile trail system, more than 160 people participated in the West Guilford Snow Shuffle Feb. 24, raising \$11,000 for upgrades at the West Guilford Community Centre and to pay for fireworks for this year’s Canada Day celebration. Dysart et al coun. Carm Sawyer was one of the organizers, saying riders made the most of the snow that was available, completing their own circuits before reporting back to judges. Phil Brown won the event and the \$3,000 grant prize but opted to donate \$1,000 of his winnings to the fundraising efforts. The event wrapped up with a roast beef dinner and dance at the community centre. *(Mike Baker).*



A helping hand in February

Rachel Holly, who has a cottage in the Eagle Lake area, organized for her work, Northbridge Insurance in downtown Toronto, to donate a truck and car load of food to the 4Cs Food Bank in Haliburton Feb. 24. Leslie Currie did the food drop on behalf of Holly and Northbridge Insurance. She said, “they had a food drive and Rachel was able to select a rural area that had a need for a donation. Having her cottage in the Eagle Lake area for many years, she knew Haliburton would be a great choice. I’d like to see Northbridge Insurance get recognized for their contribution to our community.” Judy Macduff of the 4Cs added “the food bank very much appreciates this donation of food from Rachel Holly at Northbridge Insurance from Toronto.” *(Lisa Gervais).*



Notice of Sewage Service Rates By-Law Amendments

Dysart et al Council, at their March 26, 2024 meeting, will be considering changes to By-Law 2023-36, being a by-law to impose fees and charges for the provision of Communal Sewage Services. This amendment will increase the Equivalent Residential Units (ERU) user fee and the metered Sewage Service Rate effective April 1, 2024.

Notice of Comprehensive Fee By-Law Amendments

Dysart et al Council, at their March 26, 2024 meeting, will be considering changes to By-Law 2023-84, being a by-law to impose fees and charges. This amendment will reflect the addition of the following new fees:

1. A By-Law Enforcement Re-Inspection Fee;
2. Fee for the supply of Smoke and/or CO Alarms to non-compliant buildings;
3. Cost recovery for the cleaning, repair or replacement of Fire Department Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as a result of a response; and
4. A License of Occupation/Encroachment Agreement Fee for Short Term Rentals.

This amendment will also reflect fees increases for the Memorial Bench and Tree Program and Burning Permits.

Further information on these fee changes will be available on <https://www.dysartetal.ca>.

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Forging her own path in motocross

By Mike Baker

While 12-year-old Kady Gillooly may have caught the dirt biking bug from brother, Keenan, and dad, Kieran, the Halls Lake youngster is paving her own path while making quite the name for herself on the competitive racing scene.

The Gilloolys recently returned from an international motocross event in Ohio, where Kady tested her mettle against a dozen other racers to earn the first major hardware of her young career, a second-place plaque in the Route 62 MX Track Winter Series Championship.

Given it was the Highlands youngster's first time competing on a professional level supercross track, parents Kieran and Kayla said she surpassed everyone's expectations. She was the only one of six bikers from her race team, United MX, to finish on the podium.

"It was a really cool experience, being in an environment like that. Everywhere I looked there were people racing around on bikes, moving bikes around, or fixing them. I just remember having this huge smile that I couldn't get rid of," Kady said.

Her first race was a qualifier against 12 other racers, with the top 10 finishers advancing to the finals. Kady came in third, recovering well after a rough start that saw her overshoot the first corner and almost lose control of her bike.

The final was a different story, with Kady starting strong. She said she was nervous as she approached the gate, but adrenaline soon took over.

"I just wanted to show all the Americans up," she cheekily exclaimed.

Kieran admits to getting a bit overzealous at Kady's runner-up finish and while Kayla was excited, she knew her daughter had it within her to do well.

"We got there pretty late on the Friday after a full day of driving, but Kady never once complained. She went out on the track that night for practice, most of the others out there were boys from Ohio who knew the track, but she kept up with them. For someone who had never done a supercross track before... she was a natural," Kayla said.

Kieran added, "you lose a lot of feel for bikes when you're not on it every week. Kady hasn't ridden in months, so for her to enter this competition cold and do as well as she did... we couldn't be more proud of her."

Kady has five years of racing experience under her belt, competing in the Burnt River MX Series between the ages of seven and 10 before moving up to the Amateur Motocross Ontario (AMO) circuit last summer. She has a custom pink and white 85CC Husqvarna - her pride and joy that she inherited from Kayla.

"When she first started, she was on a 65CC, but once she got her technique down and started to show improvement, she found she couldn't really compete with the older kids, who all had bigger bikes. She needed more power, and so she's been racing mine ever



Kady Gillooly shows off her second-place plaque, alongside mom, Kayla, and dad, Kieran. *Submitted.*

since," Kayla said.

Kady will be upgrading again this year - transitioning to a KTM 112CC super mini as she looks to improve on last season's 10th place finish in the AMO girls nine-16 year age bracket.

She's also harbouring hopes of returning to Ohio for a regular spot on the Route 62 schedule. Kieran said it's the closest competitive indoor winter motocross event, with monthly races from November to April. He's also keeping his eyes open for other events Stateside that could help get Kady's name out there.

Kady said she wants to make her mark in what is a largely male-dominated sport. She hopes to emulate her mentor, Bella Morgan, a 16-year-old pro who races for Team Kawasaki. The two are close friends, having connected through United MX.

"Bella has really taken Kady under her wing - they have a lot of similarities," Kayla said. "Bella has walked that path as a young girl making it in motocross, so there's no better person to learn from."

Biking is in Kady's blood. She's already counting down the days until spring, when she can again whip around her own custom-built mini motocross track at home - every lap leading towards something.

"I hope one day I'll be able to make it as a pro and race the Triple Crown Series (Canada's premiere motocross event). That would be a dream for me," Kady said.



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On February 1st, 2024, Patrick Senior, Financial Advisor, joined Assante Financial Management Ltd. and has joined alongside Gord Schakelaar, Senior Financial Planning Advisor, and Nathan Jenner, Financial Advisor.

At the core of Patrick's professional mission lies a deep-seated dedication to fostering genuine connections, nurturing trust, and leveraging expertise to empower clients on their financial journeys. As a seasoned financial advisor with over ten years of experience in banking, insurance, mortgage advising, small business credit planning, and investing, he brings a wealth of experience and knowledge, particularly in retirement planning and the nuanced art of decumulating retirement assets.

Patrick's mission is to establish authentic relationships built on trust and respect and provide clients with the insights and strategies needed to navigate retirement planning, reach their goals, and decumulate assets confidently.

Additionally, he seeks to build enduring relationships beyond financial strategies by prioritizing transparent communication and collaboration. Values that chart a course toward financial freedom, security, and fulfillment—grounded in trust, integrity, and a commitment to achieving client goals and aspirations.

With a firm belief in the transformative power of trust and relationship-building, Patrick is honoured to serve as a trusted advisor and partner as clients navigate the complexities of retirement planning and beyond. Together, clients can transform dreams into legacies that endure for generations. He looks forward to continuing to offer wealth management services throughout the Huntsville region.

Patrick Senior, Financial Advisor at Assante Financial Management Ltd.

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Huskies to play Cougars in first round

By Lisa Gervais

The Haliburton County Huskies will square off against the Cobourg Cougars when the first round of the OJHL playoffs begins March 9 in Minden.

The Huskies had a winning weekend – beating the Toronto Junior Canadiens 6-4 at home Saturday – before pipping the Niagara Falls Canucks 2-1 Sunday – to propel themselves to a fourth-place finish in the East conference.

That pits them against the fifth place Cougars and gives them home ice advantage in the series.

They'll open at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena this Saturday at 4 p.m.

Head coach and GM Ryan Ramsay said it was a "weird" regular season, with the Huskies dipping as low as 10th place in the East conference, and sitting in eighth for a long stretch. At times, a playoff spot seemed in doubt, but the squad rose to the challenge.

"This group's pretty resilient," Ramsay said.

Down the stretch, the team stayed healthy and went on a roll. They are going into the playoffs healthy, with just Gavin McGahey-Smith doubtful for the first round.

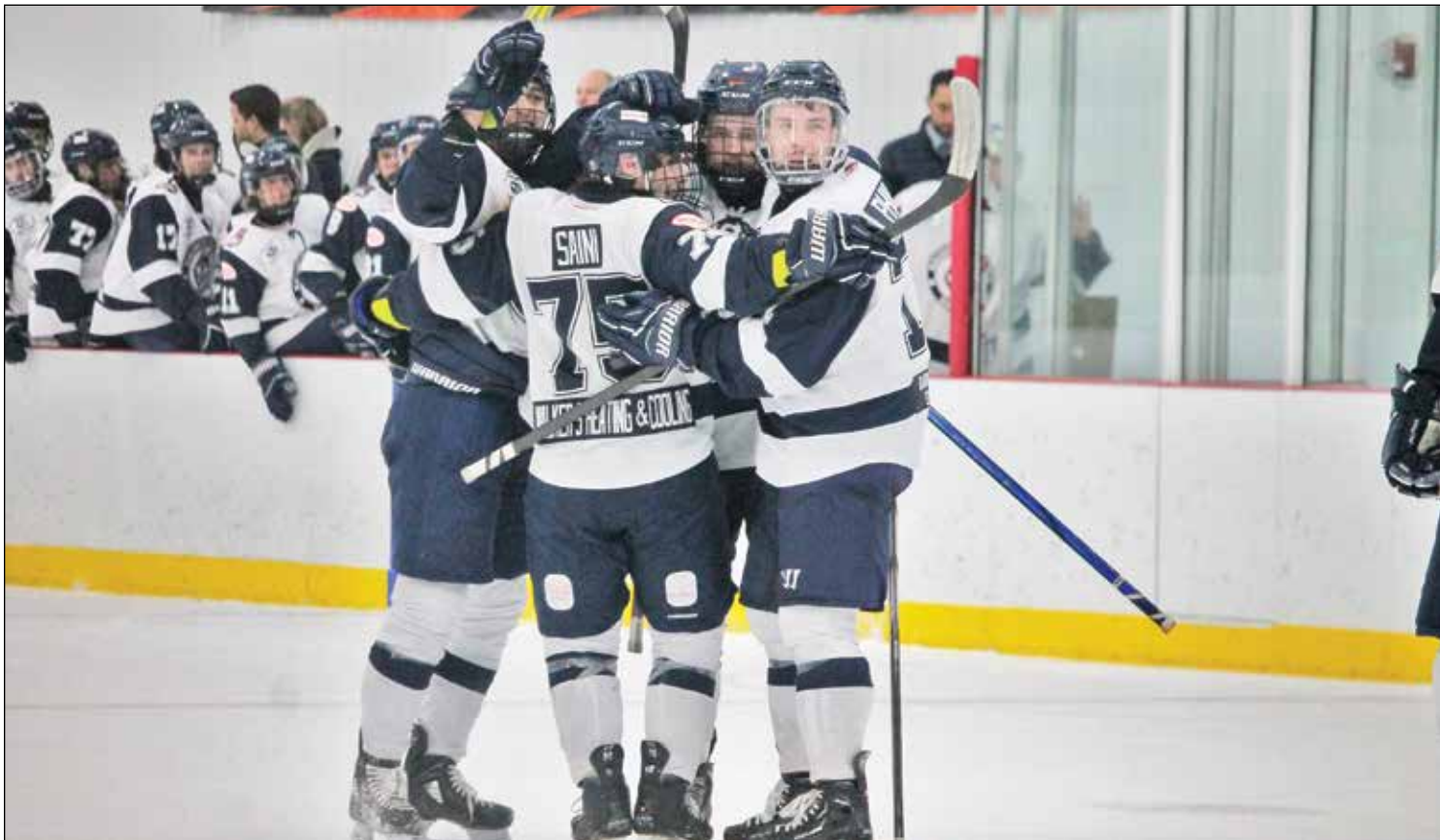
Preparing for Cobourg, Ramsay said the key is trying to stop Trevor Hoskin and Andy Reist. The two were in the top three in scoring with a combined 195 points. "If we can contain them a little bit, we'll be alright." He added they have to stick to their game plan as well.

He believes his team may have greater depth, so it's about containing the threat and "getting some bounces."

"We've got a young group, they're pretty excited."

As for home ice advantage, Ramsay likes that he'll get the last change four out of a potential seven games. And if it goes to seven, the final match will be at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena.

"With our barn, and the fans, and the atmosphere in our rink, it's a huge plus and a huge momentum shift."



The Huskies celebrate making it 3-2 at the end of the first against the Junior Canadiens. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

Huskies 6 Toronto 4

On March 2, the Huskies got the jump early. Patrick Saini scored his 42nd from Raine Nadeau and Charlie Fink at just 1:07.

But the Canadiens stunned the crowd with two goals in less than one minute. Nathan Phillips scored at 13:07 and then Connor Van Weelie put one behind goalie Brett Fullerton at 13:51.

However, the blue and white showed mettle as Matt Milic answered the call at 14:49 with his sixth goal of the season, from Saini. And, at 16:07, Ty Petrou recorded his 18th, from Milic and Saini to put the home side up 3-2 at the end of the first.

The Huskies then netted two late second period goals. McGahey-Smith scored his sixth at 15:06, from Tyson Rismond and Noah Lodoen. And, with just a second on the clock, Saini banged one in from Petrou and Fink to propel the blue and white to a commanding 5-2 lead.

It looked to be all over when Petrou scored his 19th, at :43 seconds of the third.

But the Canadiens made it a game when they answered with tallies at 3:24 (Dylan Bly) and 8:08 (Joel Taylor).

The Huskies, though, barred the door the rest of the way to seal the 6-4 victory. Fullerton stopped 34 shots.

Huskies 2 Canucks 1

After a scoreless first period in Niagara Falls, Saini opened the scoring at 4:20 of the second with his 44th goal of the season, assisted by Fink.

Just over a minute later, the Canucks answered with a Wolf Giles marker at 5:35, from Alex Hebblewaite and Braeden O'Keefe.

However, Lodoen scored the eventual game-winner at 8:22, from Aidan Yarde and Milic.

Fullerton turned aside 24 of 25 shots while the Huskies peppered Logan Snyder in the Canucks' net with 34 shots.

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Top: Patrick Saini waits for a face-off. Above: Ian Phillips faced up by former Husky Will Gourgouvelis. Photos by Lisa Gervais.

Playoff schedule

- **Game 1:** March 9, 4 p.m. Minden
- **Game 2:** March 11, 7 p.m. Cobourg
- **Game 3:** March 12, 7 p.m., Minden
- **Game 4:** March 14, 7 p.m. Cobourg
- **Game 5:** March 16, 4 p.m. Minden
- **Game 6:** March 17, 5:30 p.m. Cobourg
- **Game 7:** March 19, 7 p.m., Minden



Jerry and Dale Walker are arranging a bus to Cobourg for the game on Monday evening, leaving Haliburton at 3:30 from Haliburton Home Hardware and 3:50 from Minden Home Hardware. The cost is \$35 cash only per person. If you are interested in reserving a seat, call Dale Walker at 705-457-3134. There are 50 seats available on a first come basis and tickets can be purchased at Saturday’s game.

Home game tickets can be purchased at Foodland in Haliburton or Minden. It is likely they will be sold out and no tickets available to purchase at the door on game days.

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The U13 Walker’s Heating and Cooling Rep team continued its winning ways March 2. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

U13 rep team storms back

The U13 Walker’s Heating and Cooling rep team continued their march towards the Lindsay Muskies, and a best out-of-three challenge for an OMHA Championship berth. The Storm had a thrilling come-from-behind win Saturday at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena against the Brock Wild. The Wild came to Minden fired up after an upset loss to Durham on Friday night, and their efforts paid off. They took a 1-0 lead into the second intermission due to aggressive play and had a quick goal to start the third to build a 2-0 lead. The Storm didn’t give up, and Levi Rowe stepped up to net a key goal with steady efforts from Cruize Neave and Brycen Harrison. The Storm continued with relentless pressure, amassing over 50 shots by the game’s end. Henry Neilson finally pocketed the tying goal with a

blistering five-hole blast, supported by Hudson Meyer and Tyler Hughes. Blake Hutchinson made key saves to keep the Wild at bay until Hawksley Dobbins fought through a pile of players in front of the Brock net to pound in the winner as Linus Gervais and Chase Kerr helped with efforts throughout the game. Travis Rowe gave the Storm some breathing room with an empty-netter supported by Jaxon Hurd and Lyla Degeer’s relentless forechecking to lock in the 4-2 final. “Strong players’ efforts made this a true team victory and kept the Storm undefeated with a 5-0-1 record in the playoffs, which includes a 9-0 shutout by Marshall Heasman. The Storm has an unbelievable 26-1-3 in Victoria Durham play this year,” the coach said. *(Submitted).*

SCOREBOARD	March 2	U11 Car Quest VS Parry Sound • 2-3 L	March 3
	U11 Cottage Country Building Supplies VS Almaguin • 2-5 L	U15 The Peppermill Steak & Pasta House VS Almaguin • 5-4 W	U13 Up Right Roofing VS Cheryl Smith RE/MAX • 8-3 W for Up Right Roofing
	U18 Sharp Electric VS Huntsville • 2-7 L	U13 Cheryl Smith RE/MAX VS Almaguin 7-0 W	U15 The Peppermill Steak & Pasta House VS Almaguin • 4-0 W
	U13 Up Right Roofing VS Parry Sound 11-2 W	U11 Cottage Country Building Supplies VS Parry Sound • 1-2 L	U11 Curry Chevrolet VS Durham • 1-1 T
	U13 Walker’s Heating & Cooling VS Brock • 4-2 W	U9 Haliburton Hockey Haven VS Huntsville 2-4 L	U13 Walker’s Heating & Cooling VS Durham 3-0 W



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Brycen Harrison

Brycen is a very dynamic forward. With his tremendous speed, he always finds a way to produce offence and crafts plays from the corners.

Levi Rowe

Levi has turned into one of the league's top defensive players. With his hard work ethic, natural hockey skill, and ability to rush the puck, he is a major part of the team's success this year. *Photos by Tim Tofflemire.*



Michael McFadden, Matt Duchene, Jessica McFadden and kids, Jax, Austin and Rilynn. Submitted.

McFaddens and hungry kids the winners

By Lisa Gervais

This past summer, Vince Duchene and Troy Austen played in the Bernie Nicholls Foundation golf tournament. On one of the silent auction bidding tables were two tickets to a Feb. 22 Dallas Stars-Ottawa Senators home game. Duchene, father of Stars’ forward Matt Duchene, said he didn’t know who’d donated the tickets but he and Austen pooled their money to buy them. “And then the idea kind of morphed from there,” Duchene said. They decided to donate

the tickets for an adult and kids’ hockey trip draw - to raise money for Trillium Lakelands District School Boards’ Feed All Four Foundation program. That’s the charity Nicholls’ foundation had earmarked in the summer golf tournament. Vince talked to Matt about the idea, “and he loved it,” planning to meet the winners, sign jerseys and autographs, and pose for photos. Vince secured two Duchene jerseys for the winners and the realtors ran a social media contest. The winner was Mike McFadden of McFadden’s Meat Market in Haliburton.

He’d never been to a professional hockey game. Originally, the McFaddens were going to go as a couple but Duchene and Austen wanted them to take their three kids. So, McFadden said he went online and found three additional tickets for the game. Meanwhile, Duchene donated a third jersey so all the kids had one to wear at the game. Duchene also booked them dinner before the game, and transportation was donated by a local limousine company. McFadden said it was quite a surprise and a lot of fun. “We’d never been to a game, ever.” He said it was different to watching a

game on TV. “These guys, when they skate, they are so quick, you can hear them skating. It’s not like on TV, where you pick up all the sounds. These guys are just going so fast you hardly hear their skates hitting the ice.” He added the atmosphere was electric. “It was nice... quite an experience.” He added Matt is a long-time customer and supporter of his business and was happy someone he knew had won. And the McFaddens weren’t the only winners, with Duchene saying they raised more than \$1,100 for the school-based food program.



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EVENTS

March 8, 7:30 p.m.
Folk duo Tragedy Ann is bringing its 'Home Routes' concert to Haliburton County. Event hosted by the Haliburton County Folk Society and happening at 1175 Shuyler's Island Rd. Seats are limited, so registration is required. To reserve your seat, email mariegage1626@gmail.com, or call 705-854-2122.

March 9, 2 p.m.
Families with children ages six to 12 are invited to 'The Colour of Friendship', a free puppet show and workshop at the Dysart library. Visit haliburtonlibrary.ca/programs-events to register.

March 10, 2 p.m.
Chaga 101 at the Haliburton Highlands Museum. This hyper focused workshop, led by Stephan Lukacic, consists of an hour long seminar discussing the medicinal uses and health benefits of chaga fungus. There will be a hike into the forest where you will be taught how to accurately identify chaga and how to harvest it. There will be chaga tea tasting to end the day.

March 12, 11 a.m.
Kids and teens can come to the Minden library and learn how to choose native pollinator plants for their gardens and how to start the seeds. Visit haliburtonlibrary.ca to register.

March 12, 7 p.m.
Environment Haliburton! is hosting an enviro-cafe looking at energy poverty and the climate emergency, featuring a virtual presentation by Abhilash Kantamneni, an Efficiency Canada energy poverty and low-income energy research manager. A Q&A session will follow. To register, visit environmentalhaliburton.org.

March 13, 1 p.m.
The Stanhope location of the Haliburton County Public Library is hosting an information session for youth on native pollinator plants. Learn how to choose which plants best fit your garden. To register, visit haliburtonlibrary.ca.

March 13, 2 p.m.
Families with children ages six to 12 are invited to attend 'The Colour of Friendship', a free puppet show and workshop at the Minden library. Visit haliburtonlibrary.ca/programs-events to register.

March 14, 1 p.m.
The Dysart branch of the Haliburton County Public Library is hosting an interactive movie screening of Finding Nemo! Free to attend.

March 14, 7:30 p.m.
The Lake Kashagawigamog Association (LKO) presents 'Love your Lake', a new seminar series held over Zoom. Speaker Howard Simkover will discuss the upcoming solar eclipse, on April 8. This talk will describe the many kinds of eclipses, what they are, when they happen, what causes them, and why they're so rare. To register, visit lko.ca.

March 15, 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.
Meet authors and educators Daniela Ferrante and Dina Russo-De Cotiis from Little Light Books and hear them read from their 'With Your Help' series. At the Dysart library at 10:30 a.m. and the Minden library at 2 p.m. Visit haliburtonlibrary.ca to register.

March 16, 2 p.m.
The Dysart location of the Haliburton County Public Library is hosting an information session for youth on native pollinator plants. Learn how to choose which plants best fit your garden. To register, visit haliburtonlibrary.ca.

March 16, 4 to 7 p.m.
St. Patrick's Day Celebration at the Haliburton Legion, featuring 'The Highland Trio'. A stew dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m. Admission is \$5 for non-members.

Have a non-profit event you want advertised?
email mike@thehighlander.ca.

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION EVENTS

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 129 Haliburton weekly activities
Mondays: Bridge at 1 p.m. in the Schofield Rm.
Tuesdays: League darts 7 p.m. Haliburton Army Cadets practice 6:30-9 p.m.
Wednesdays: Bid euchre 1 p.m. start, main hall. Scottish country dancing throughout February, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. in the main hall. Everyone is welcome. Contact Jim at 705-457-6962. Bingo is back, featuring a brand new machine. There's a \$1,000 jackpot on the first Wednesday of the month.
Thursdays: General meeting third Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. & ladies auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.
Fridays: Meat draw, five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m., tickets \$2 per draw. Ed Pickard, MC. Friday fun darts 4:30 p.m. onwards.
Saturdays: 50/50 draw 4 p.m. Tickets \$1 each, available in the Clubroom.

Clubroom hours: Mon 3-6 p.m., Tues 3-9 p.m., Wed/Thurs 3-6 p.m., Fri 3-7 p.m. & Sat 3-6 p.m.

Come on out and support Haliburton Legion Branch 129... everyone is welcome!

The Legion's mandate is to help veterans, assist with their mental health and social wellbeing, provide a feeling of togetherness and combat isolation. We cater to seniors, but all are welcome to attend our events.

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 519 Cobococonk
Second Monday of the month: General meeting - 7:30 p.m. No meetings in February.
Tuesdays: Soup and sandwich lunch, 11:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Euchre - 1 p.m. Open Darts - 7 p.m.
First Wednesday of the month: Big Buck Bid Euchre from 11 a.m. \$15 per person.
Saturdays: Meat Roll at 3 p.m.

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 624 Wilberforce
March 7: Open 2 to 6 p.m.
March 8: Seniors 55+ lunch at noon, open 2 to 9 p.m., fish and chips 5 to 8 p.m.
March 9: Open 2 to 6 p.m. Meat draw at 3 p.m.
March 10: LA Breakfast 9 to 11 a.m., closed after breakfast
March 11 & 12: Closed
March 13: Open 2 to 6 p.m. Darts at 2 p.m.

If you are planning an event, our Ladies Auxiliary would be pleased to cater. Please call the branch at 705-448-2221 to arrange your event.

Royal Canadian Legion - Mabel D. Brannigan Branch 636 Minden
Monday - Thursday: Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. with regular menu and daily special including Liver Lovers' Tuesday.
Friday Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and dinner 4-7 p.m.
Saturday all day breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with meat draws at 11 a.m.

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ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS meets Wednesday nights 7:00 p.m. at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle St., Minden – rear door. Thinking about alcohol. Thinking about stopping. We've been there. We can help!

Alcoholics Anonymous Meets Mondays 7:00 pm at West Guilford Baptist Church. For anyone with a desire to stop drinking

AL ANON - WE CARE, are you troubled by someone's drinking? Meetings: Thursdays 7 p.m., St. Anthony's 27 Victoria Street, Haliburton, and Mondays 7 p.m. at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle, Rear Entrance, Minden. 1-888-4AL-ANON (1-888-425-2666) al-anon.org. All are welcome.

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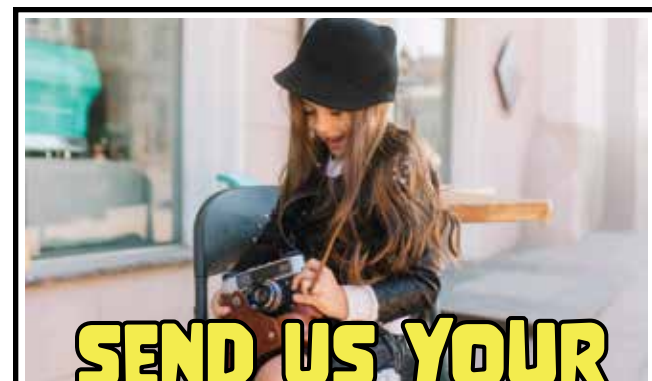
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Michael Conrathe
(Resident of Haliburton, Ontario)

Peacefully at his home in Haliburton on Sunday, February 25, 2024, surrounded by his family and closest friends. Born December 24, 1940, in Rickmansworth, UK, to Rupert (deceased) and Dorothy Conrathe (deceased). Devoted Husband to Jackie, and formerly to Ginny (deceased 1995), mother of his children. Loving Father to David (Kathryn) and Joanna (Chris). Caring Stepfather to Sarah and Robert (Jennifer). Fun-loving Grandad to Ashley, Emily, Olivia, Kellen, Cameron, and Kylie. Predeceased by his brother Roy (Ruth). Survived by brother Roger (Joan).

While Mike will be missed tremendously by his family and friends, there is peace in knowing that the struggle he endured with his health over the past couple of years is now behind him. May he rest in eternal love knowing the wonderful legacy he has left behind.

The family sends their heartfelt thanks to the nurses and doctors of acute care in both Peterborough Regional Health Centre (PRHC) and Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) for the care he received in his final weeks.

Celebration Of Life

A celebration of life will be held in honor of Mike in the spring. As an expression of sympathy, donations to Haliburton Highlands Health Services would be appreciated by the family. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the
HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209.



In Loving Memory of
Eleanor Mae Arbuthnot
(nee McCracken)

Passed away peacefully at Haliburton Health Services Hospital, Haliburton, Ontario on March 3rd, 2024, at the age of 88.

Beloved wife of Ronald James Arbuthnot (deceased). Dear mother of Bob (Kathy deceased) of Williamsville, NY, Karen (Kim) Colliss of Minden and David (deceased). Loving Gram of Kristen (Shane), Stephen (Corey), Jamie (Kelsei) and Maureen (Jed). Special Nan to Nathan, Kate, Huxlee, Jackson, Wren, Dylan, Luke, Tyke and Winnie (Winifred). Sister of Eldon (Laureen) McCracken, Mary (Dale deceased) Trumbull and Les (Judy) McCracken.

Eleanor will be fondly remembered by her many nieces and nephews. As well as many amazing friends.

Cremation has taken place and a celebration of Eleanor's life will be held on at a later date.

Memorial Donations to the Diabetes Canada or Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (H.H.H.S.F.) would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.



FOR RENT

FOR RENT - 2 bedrooms for rent in shared home. \$800 each / month. Available immediately. Parking, pool, utilities, wifi included; close to all amenities, located in the village. Email info@smfhome.com or text 647-824-5734.

FOR RENT – 1 bedroom shared accommodation, large bath, kitchen, living space & dining area. Hot tub, water access & shared laundry. 5 min. to Minden. \$800/month, first & last. Mature working individual. References required. Call 705-455-2050

COMMERCIAL SPACE FOR RENT - 160 Highland Street, Haliburton. 1500 sq ft available April 1, 2024 Measton3@rogers.com or call 705-457-8868

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1	Z	A	P	S		5	M	L	A		8	I	D	O	N	12	O	T
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LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

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29	F	I	F	I			32	A	S	O	D	D		33	A	H	A		
36	T	I	E	D	37	Y	E	S		39	N	O	S	40	E	J	O	B	
41	D	I	E		42	O	B	E	43	S	E			44	V	A	P	E	
			45	A	L	O	S	T		46	I	B	E						
48	P	O	I	S	O	N			51	O	F	F	E	N	53	S	54	E	55
56	I	N	S	T					57	O	R	I	G		58	E	L	I	
59	N	E	A	R	60	L	Y		62	L	A	T	E	R	A	L	S		
64	K	U	W	A	I	T			65	I	M	I	T	A	T	E	S		
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EVENT

A MURDER IS ANNOUNCED and will take place April 3, 4 & 5, 7 :30 p.m. at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion at the High School in Haliburton, and April 6 at 2 p.m. presented by Highlands Little Theatre. Tickets available at Up River Trading, Minden & Haliburton. Friends, please accept this as the only intimation.

HELP WANTED

Municipality of Dysart et al EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Roads Department Seasonal Employees

Reporting to the Operations Manager, the successful applicants will have sound knowledge of the methods, tools and equipment required for the general maintenance of roads during summer months. Primary duties include, but are not limited to, traffic control, pothole patching and spray patching. Previous road maintenance and/or construction experience is considered an asset.

Self-motivated applicants must be able to work outdoors with minimal supervision. A valid Ontario Class 'DZ' licence is required along with an acceptable abstract. A Criminal Reference Check will be required. Pursuant to CUPE Local #2142 the rate of pay is \$24.51 per hour based on a 40-hour work week.

A detailed job description is on our website at www.dysartetal.ca

Interested individuals are invited to email a detailed resume and cover letter to:
Sonja Marx, HR Manager
hr@dysartetal.ca

No Later Than 12:00 pm Wednesday, March 20th, 2024.

****We thank all who apply; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.****



Municipality of Dysart et al EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Full Time Equipment Operator

Reporting to the Operations Manager, the successful applicants will have sound knowledge of the methods, tools and equipment required for the general maintenance of the municipal road system including bridges, culverts, drainage, and other road/property. Primary duties include, but not limited to operation of a sidewalk plow, dump truck (with sander/snow plow), backhoe, loader and grader.

Self-motivated applicants must be able to work outdoors in all weather with minimal supervision. A valid Ontario Class 'A' or 'D' licence (manual) with 'Z' endorsement is required along with an acceptable abstract. Pursuant to CUPE Local #2142 the rate of pay is \$27.77 per hour based on a 40-hour work week. Pension and Benefits after a 6-month probationary period.

A detailed job description is on our website at www.dysartetal.ca

Interested individuals are invited to email a detailed resume and cover letter to:

Sonja Marx, HR Manager
hr@dysartetal.ca

Closing date is 12:00pm on March 20th, 2024

We thank all who apply; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.



DYSART ET AL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

SEPTIC MAINTENANCE PROGRAM 1 seasonal septic inspector

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT 2 summer students required for Arena & Parks

The Municipality of Dysart et al is seeking one (1) Seasonal Septic Inspector and two (2) summer students for Arena and Parks to join our team. Detailed job descriptions are available at <https://www.dysartetal.ca/en/municipal-government/careers.aspx> for your review.

Please submit a resume and cover letter, preferably by email, no later than noon on Monday, March 18, 2024 to the attention of **Human Resources at hr@dysartetal.ca**.

Alternatively, your submission may be mailed to P.O. Box 389, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0.

We thank all of those who apply, but only those selected for an interview will be contacted. Accommodations for applicants with disabilities will be provided upon request. The Municipality of Dysart et al is an equal opportunity employer. Personal information is collected in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and will be used only for employment purposes.



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A Mixture of Music

by Barbara Olson
© ClassiCanadian Crosswords

- Across
- 1 Uses a nuker
 - 5 Prov. party electee
 - 8 "___ like green eggs and ham"
 - 14 Good guy for a think tank
 - 16 "That's cheating!"
 - 17 Burton Cummings/Jim Croce collaboration?
 - 19 Vitamin label stat.
 - 20 It goes around on a helicopter
 - 21 "___ for Innocent" (mystery novel title)
 - 22 Dozy one's need
 - 25 Clark Gable's quintet
 - 27 Elton John/Hall & Oates collaboration?
 - 30 Big ___ (unrealistic request)
 - 31 Campus dining area, casually
 - 32 Pink Floyd singer Barrett
 - 33 Ways of operating: Abbr.
 - 36 Blissful-sounding band
 - 38 "Brave New World" pills
 - 42 "That's ___ in 'eagle'"
 - 44 Significant period
 - 46 Blood classification method
 - 47 Bruce Springsteen/Bryan Adams collaboration?
 - 52 Road kill, to a raven
 - 53 Chow down
 - 54 Org. in "The Six Million Dollar Man"
 - 55 Musketeers and Stooges, e.g.
 - 58 Palindromic "saison"
 - 59 Melissa Etheridge/Beatles collaboration?
 - 64 Tutu wearer's toe
 - 65 What fighting friends might part on
 - 66 Worked out the knots
 - 67 "Little green men," for short
 - 68 Work as a steno

- Down
- 1 Cab sav alternative
 - 2 Hoo-ha, to the Bard
 - 3 Items in a '70s lapidary fad
 - 4 Gave permission
 - 5 Lady of LaSalle: Abbr.
 - 6 Fox's retreat
 - 7 Part of A.D.
 - 8 Folders with new emails
 - 9 Paths to success, metaphorically
 - 10 Short frequency?
 - 11 Born and bred in, with "to"
 - 12 Showing more use, as a dipstick rag
 - 13 Rapunzel locks
 - 15 Combo word for a blue sky blocker
 - 18 Wouldn't touch with ___ foot pole
 - 22 Spanish women: Abbr.
 - 23 Snoopy, but not the dog
 - 24 Series ender?
 - 26 "What good would ___?"
 - 28 Hot kitchen setting
 - 29 Last word in many kid's stories
 - 34 Yuk. or Nun.

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66							67				68			

- 35 Equip with germ-free facilities
- 37 High-quality wine word
- 39 Gomer Pyle's hometown
- 40 ___ Hassan, "Arabian Nights" character
- 41 Side dish alternative to salad
- 43 Left furiously, with "out"
- 45 Director Lee
- 47 Adapt, as a movie from a novel
- 48 "Then again, maybe not"
- 49 "Already doing that!"
- 50 Trick alternative
- 51 Chain store venue
- 52 South American rodent
- 56 "___ quiet!" (retort to a teaser)
- 57 Parking place?
- 60 Some pasta endings
- 61 OED entries: Abbr.
- 62 One who works at home?
- 63 Opposite of NNW

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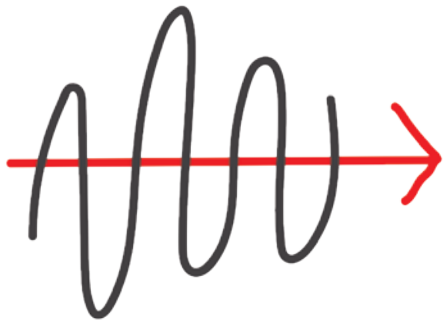
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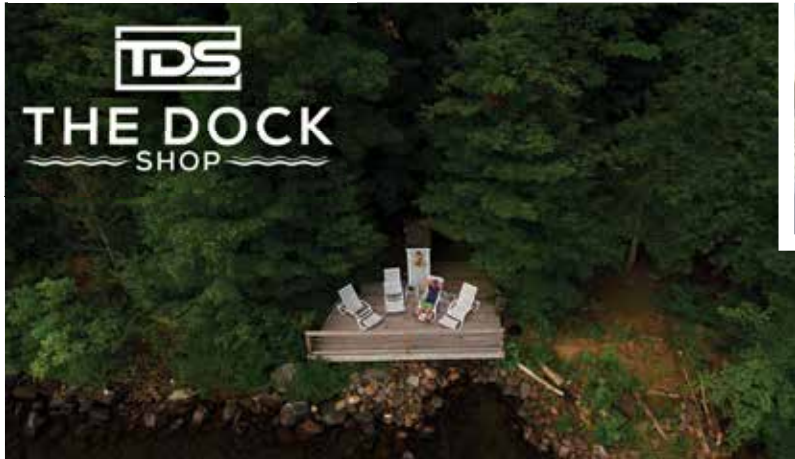
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1	9					4		
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Anthony vanLieshout

Broker of Record, CRA

Chris James

Broker

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